

PATENT  
Serial No. 09/653,782  
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of July 19, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4 and 8 as follows:

- 1        1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a receiver,  
2 comprising:
  - 3            (a) energizing the receiver,
  - 4            (b) detecting the presence of a carrier signal,
  - 5            (c) de-energising the receiver if the carrier signal is not  
6 detected,
    - 7            (d) maintaining the energisation of the receiver if  
8 the carrier signal is detected,
    - 9            (e) demodulating the detected carrier signal,
    - 10          (f) assessing the quality of the demodulated signal,
    - 11          (g) de-energising the receiver if the quality of the  
12 demodulated signal is not acceptable, and
    - 13          (h) decoding the demodulated signal if the signal quality is  
14 acceptable.

- 1        2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized by  
2 measuring the received signal strength indication (RSSI) as a means  
3 for detecting the presence of the carrier signal.

PATENT  
Serial No. 09/653,782  
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of July 19, 2005

1       3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1,  
2       characterized by measuring signal quality as a measure for  
3       determining if a signal is decodable.

1       4. (Currently Amended) A communications system comprising a  
2       primary station having a transmitter for transmitting a signal and  
3       at least one secondary station having a receiver for receiving  
4       signals from the primary station, the receiver comprising signal  
5       receiving means, means for detecting the presence of a received  
6       signal, means for detecting the quality of the received signal and  
7       power control means for de-energising the receiver if ~~the presence~~  
8       ~~of a signal is not detected or if the presence of the signal is~~  
9       detected and the detected signal is not decodable.

1       5. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in  
2       that means for determining the received signal strength indication  
3       (RSSI) is coupled to the signal receiving means.

Claims 6-7 (Cancelled)

1       8. (Currently Amended). A battery-powered radio, comprising:

PATENT  
Serial No. 09/653,782  
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of July 19, 2005

2       a receiver circuit, the receiver circuit operable to produce a  
3       received signal from a channel;  
4       a received signal strength indicator circuit coupled to the  
5       receiver circuit, the received signal strength indicator circuit  
6       operable to produce an output indicating an amount of power in the  
7       channel;  
8       a demodulator circuit coupled to the receiver circuit, the  
9       demodulator operable to produce a demodulated signal from the  
10      received signal;  
11      a signal quality indicator circuit coupled to the demodulator  
12      circuit;  
13      a decoder circuit coupled to the demodulator circuit; and  
14      a microprocessor coupled to the receiver, the received signal  
15      strength indicator circuit, the signal quality indicator circuit  
16      and the decoder circuit;  
17      wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize and de-  
18      energize the receiver circuit; determine the presence of a carrier  
19      with a carrier detect false rate, based, at least in part, on the  
20      power in the channel, and to determine and an acceptable signal  
21      quality with a signal quality false rate, based, at least in part,  
22      on an output of the signal quality indicator circuit;

PATENT  
Serial No. 09/653,782  
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of July 19, 2005

23       wherein the microprocessor is operable to energize the  
24      receiver circuit for a first period of time, and, if the carrier is  
25      determined to be present, to then maintain the receiver in the  
26      energized state until a determination is made as to whether  
27     acceptable signal quality has been obtained, and to de-energise the  
28     receiver if the carrier is determined to be present and the signal  
29     quality is not acceptable.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

1       10. (Previously Presented) The battery-powered radio of Claim  
2      8, wherein the microprocessor is operable to de-energize the  
3      receiver circuit if the carrier is determined to not be present,  
4      without performing a signal quality determination.

1       11. (Previously Presented) The battery-powered radio of Claim  
2      10, further comprising:  
3            a metering unit coupled to the microprocessor;  
4            an encoder circuit coupled to the microprocessor; and  
5            a radio transmitter circuit coupled to the encoder circuit.